

At around 11 o'clock Tuesday night, my office received word from sources in Sichuan Province that victims left homeless by the recent earthquake did not have access to tents. Thousands are literally sleeping in the streets with no shelter, despite the government's attempt to maximize tent manufacturing output. Working with the Chinese Embassy in Washington and the U.S. Department of Defense, our office bridged the information gap and facilitated an official request for tents by officials in Beijing. Just moments ago, I received final confirmation that the Chinese request was accepted and tents are on the way to provide shelter to Chinese earthquake victims – all courtesy of the United States of America. I want to thank Bob Kapp, a former chairman of the U.S.-China Business Council, for bringing this critical information to my attention along with the East Asia team at the Pentagon for its rapid response.